

and, therefore, gets all the more fuel for the counterclockwise rotation of the winds from the warm water?

I want the National Transportation Safety Board, over which the Senate Commerce Committee has some jurisdiction—of which I have the privilege of being the ranking member—to come up with a quick report.

Now, thank goodness, that so far only four passengers were reported injured and no one was killed. That ship is now returning to port back in the New York area. Thank goodness there was not much damage, and that it is seaworthy. But the question is, When there is a storm brewing, why are mistakes made just like what happened to the El Faro? Before it left the Port of Jacksonville, they knew that a hurricane was coming.

We need to know what happened in this case as well so we can prevent these kinds of accidents that could be so tragic in the future.

The Senate Commerce Committee has oversight of the National Transportation Safety Board, and I want them to come up with answers very quickly and make an admonition to Americans that when a storm is brewing, you don't go out of port.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Rebecca Goodgame Ebinger, of Iowa, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 30 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD ANDERSON

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, on Friday of last week as I was getting ready

to leave to go home to the State of Georgia, the United States of America, and the aviation industry received notice that Richard Anderson, CEO of Delta Airlines, will retire after a career of over 25 years in the aviation industry, but in particular a great career at Delta Airlines over the last decade. I rise to memorialize on the floor of the Senate how much my State and the aviation industry owes to Richard Anderson.

Richard took over Delta at a very critical time. In fact, Delta was in desperate straits. Because of his work at Delta, he revitalized the culture of the company, he revitalized the aviation industry in Georgia, and he made it a market for all of us to be proud of. In fact, in 1 year, 2 years ago, Delta was one of the 50 most admired companies in the United States of America and led the world in terms of aviation as stated by Aviation Magazine, but most importantly Richard Anderson came to Washington, DC, when all the aviation industry was in trouble. He was then with Northwest. Delta was having difficulties. He worked with the U.S. Senate, worked with the Finance Committee, worked with me, MIKE ENZI, and others to reform the pension performance act of 2005, and change the way pensions were calculated in order to save the pensions of Delta Airlines and many other airlines in the United States of America. His hands-on effort to revitalize that company led to the most prosperous year in its history in 2016, and the most prosperous decade it had in the last 10 years.

So as he announces he is leaving Delta Airlines and the aviation industry for other things to do, I want to, on the floor of the Senate, commend him for all he has done to make Delta Airlines in the State of Georgia great, all he has done for the aviation industry, and all he has done for the economy of the greatest country on the face of this Earth—the United States of America.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote on the nomination of Judge Ebinger from Iowa. I am very pleased to be here to support her and to urge all my colleagues to also support her nomination.

I am very proud of the work my colleague Senator ERNST and I have done to fill the vacancies in Iowa's district courts by putting forward two exceptionally talented and qualified nominees, Judges Ebinger and Strand. I said this in committee but, for the benefit of all Members of the Senate, the Iowa nominees are two of the best judicial candidates the President has nominated during his Presidency.

To fill the vacancies in Iowa, I set up a Judicial Selection Commission and invited all interested Iowa lawyers to apply. The applicants were vetted by highly qualified members of the Iowa legal community. After spending hun-

dreds of hours reviewing the applications, the Commission interviewed all 39 applicants. Eleven candidates of the thirty-nine were then selected for a lengthy second round of interviews. At the end of the process, the Commission sent their recommendations to me. In consultation with my fellow Iowa Senator, I was proud to recommend Judges Strand and Ebinger to the White House. Judges Strand and Ebinger have the highest credentials and character and will serve the State of Iowa with honor and with distinction.

I would like to say a little bit more about Judge Ebinger because she is the one of the two we are voting on today. Judge Ebinger received her undergraduate degree in 1997 from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and her law degree from Yale Law School in 2004. She then served as a special assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Iowa in Cedar Rapids. There, she prosecuted criminal cases involving narcotics, immigration, firearms offenses, and violent crimes. She then clerked for Judge Michael Melloy on the Eighth Circuit for 2 years, also in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Following her clerkship, she moved to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Iowa as an assistant U.S. attorney. During this time, her practice shifted primarily to white-collar crime. She also handled intake for all child support enforcement cases and sex offender registry violations.

Judge Ebinger received a number of awards for her work with the U.S. Attorney's Office. In 2012, she was appointed to serve as a district judge in Iowa State court and was retained as a district judge in the 2014 election. As a State court judge, she presided over a court of general jurisdiction, handling civil law and equity, criminal, and family court proceedings. She has presided over 40 cases that have gone to verdict or trial.

Judge Ebinger is a highly qualified, well-respected judge already, and I urge my colleagues to support her nomination today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we will vote on the nomination of Rebecca Ebinger to fill a judicial vacancy in the Federal district court in the southern district of Iowa.

Ms. Ebinger is a highly qualified nominee who has devoted her legal career to public service. Since 2012, she has served as a district judge in Iowa State court. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Ebinger served as a prosecutor at the Federal and State levels in Iowa, including in the U.S. attorney's offices for the southern and northern districts of Iowa. During her tenure as a Federal prosecutor, she was the lead attorney on cases involving violence against women. Judge Ebinger has the strong support of her home State Senators, Chairman GRASSLEY of the Judiciary Committee and Senator ERNST.